

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A purified polypeptide that retains at least glutathione conjugating activity comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 having at least glutathione conjugating activity, and
- b) an ~~naturally-occurring~~ amino acid sequence having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and has at least glutathione conjugating activity.

2. (Previously Presented) A purified polypeptide of claim 1 having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

3. - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 and a carrier.

15. - 22. (Canceled)

23. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method for ~~using a polypeptide to screening for a plurality of molecule[[s]] or compound[[s]] to identify a molecule or compound~~ that specifically binds ~~the~~ a polypeptide of claim 1 ~~from a sample~~, the method comprising:

- (a) combining ~~the~~ a polypeptide of claim 1 with ~~the~~ at least one test compound or molecule under suitable conditions to allow binding of a polypeptide of claim 1 to the test molecule or compound complex formation; and

(b) detecting, if present, any binding of a polypeptide of claim 1 to the test molecule or compound ~~complex formation~~, wherein the presence of the complex ~~identifies thereby identifying~~ a molecule or compound that specifically binds ~~the~~ a polypeptide of claim 1.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method ~~of using a polypeptide to purify~~ for screening a molecule or compound ~~which specifically binds the~~ that modulates the activity of a polypeptide of claim 1 ~~from a sample~~, the method comprising:

a) combining ~~the~~ a polypeptide of claim 1 with ~~a sample~~ at least one test molecule or compound under conditions permissive for the activity of a polypeptide of claim 1 ~~to allow specific binding~~;

b) ~~recovering the bound polypeptide~~ assessing, if present, any activity of a polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test molecule or compound; and

c) ~~separating the polypeptide from the molecule or compound, thereby obtaining purified molecule or compound~~ comparing the activity of a polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test molecule or compound with the activity of a polypeptide of claim 1 in the absence of the test molecule or compound, wherein a change in activity of a polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound is indicative of a compound that modulates the activity of a polypeptide of claim 1.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method for screening a molecule or compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) ~~exposing~~ contacting a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 ~~to~~ with a molecule or compound, and

b) detecting, if present, any agonist activity in the sample.

28. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) ~~exposing~~ contacting a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- b) detecting, if present, any antagonist activity in the sample.